

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-14(Canceled).

Claim 15(Previously Presented). A method of locking interconnected electrical cords together, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongated planar shaped device having a constant width, first end and a second end opposite to the first end, the first end having a first set of staggered identically shaped slots, the first set having two slots on one side of the first end and a third slot on the opposite side of the first end, the second end having a second set of staggered identically shaped slots, the second end having two slots on one side of the first end and a third slot on the opposite side of the second end, and a solid planar backing portion located between the first end and the second end;

mateably interconnecting one end of the first electrical cord with one end of a second electrical cord;

positioning the interconnected ends of the cords over the solid planar backing portion of the planar shaped device;

wrapping the one end of the first electrical cord about opposite side facing slots along the first end of a planar shaped device in an over approximately 360 degree pattern; and

wrapping the one end of the second electrical cord about opposite side facing slots along the second end of the planar shaped device, the second end being opposite the first end in an approximately 360 degree pattern; and

pulling the first electrical cord and second electrical cord apart causing the first cord and the second cord to lock into the respective slots.

Claims 16-18(Canceled).

Claim 19(Original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

snapping portions of the first cord and the second cord into narrow slit openings of respective slots, where diameters of the first cord portions and the second cord portions are larger than diameters of the narrow slit openings of the respective slots, so that the first cord and the second cord keeps from falling out of the slots.

Claim 20(Original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

providing ruler markings along at least one edge of the device; and  
using the device as a measuring tool.